

EXERCISE ... VIGILANT VICTOR ... EXERCISE ...VIGILANT VICTOR

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

INCIDENT NO. 03-109

DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2003 TIME: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Thirty-five North Dakota counties and four tribes participated in a Homeland Security Functional Exercise September 24 and 25, 2003. The jurisdictions all dealt with a credible threat scenario and then the results of an explosion that spread a chemical agent causing a mass casualty incident. The livestock industry was affected by the chemical agent plus a bio-terrorism incident involving foot and mouth disease.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Each participating jurisdiction experienced several deaths and injuries simulated in the exercise.
3. DAMAGES: The simulated explosion occurring in a major city within the participating jurisdiction damaged a facility such as a shopping mall, school, event arena, and other area with a concentrated population.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Resources included typical emergency response personnel representing law enforcement, human services, public health, veterinarians, fire departments, emergency medical services, emergency management, county highway departments, city public works departments, city and county emergency communications, legal consultants, city and county elected offices. Other organizations included school districts, radio stations, Game and Fish, television stations, veterinarians, and local emergency planning committees

STATE: The State Emergency Operations Plan was activated; functional and Task Coordinators representing several state agencies were present in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Agency personnel worked the exercise utilizing two shifts. The ND Association of Counties and ND League of Cities provided exercise controllers and evaluators to the 39 participating jurisdictions.

FEDERAL: Agencies represented included the Department of Homeland Security, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Secret Service. Representatives from Titan Corporation, hired by the Department of Homeland Security Office for Domestic Preparedness, monitored the exercise in the state EOC and in four local jurisdictions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Volunteer Agencies Active in a Disaster (VOAD) helped with the simulated events in the counties and tribes. At the State Emergency Operations Center the American Red Cross represented the VOAD Agencies, the Salvation Army served meals to the State EOC personnel.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Local entities reacted to the exercise event by dealing with issues such as threat assessment; securing the crime scene and maintaining perimeter control; decontamination; traffic control; damage assessment; chemical and biological agent identification; resource management in terms equipment, supplies, and trained personnel needed in a weapons of mass destruction mass casualty and mass death incident; sheltering; evacuation; situation reports; disaster declarations; requests for outside assistance; and animal disease diagnosis.

State agencies were called upon to provide technical expertise, additional personnel, and needed equipment to assist local governments in effective response activities.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Requests for additional resources typically included Federal and State law enforcement, personal protective equipment, medical equipment and supplies, personnel trained in WMD response, chemical and biological agent identification, advice on procedures for handling a weapons of mass destruction incident of this magnitude, disease diagnosis, shelters, feeding operations, ground transportation, aviation , decontamination , and laboratory .
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Often outside assistance was provided by neighboring jurisdictions.
9. OTHER: Lessons learned initially during simulation included: The State Operations Center requires automation enhancements as the current manual process is not fully adequate. Local mutual aid procedures for deploying the area hazardous materials teams need to be clarified along with procedures for supplementing local resources with the National Guard Civil Support Team deployment. Emergency messaging forms and procedures need evaluation. The need for specific updates within the state emergency operations plan was identified. Communications between local jurisdictions and the state was not always clear especially in resource requests. Public information procedures on the local level need evaluation. Training needs identified included a need for widespread terrorism awareness and operational level training, training in exercise design, training in National Guard activation procedures, training in

identification procedures of chemical agents and training on procedures used in a terrorism chemical incident.

10. SUMMARY: We believe that as formal after action reviews are completed, there may be additional lessons learned. Overall, the exercise also identified obvious progress in enhancing our Homeland Security posture within North Dakota over the past two years.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director